

VOLCANOES!

Activity Sheet 2.1 Map A The Mountain Blows its Top

These are **topographic maps** of Mount St. Helens. **Map A** is Mount St. Helens before the 1980 eruptions and **Map B** is Mount St. Helens after the May 18, 1980, eruption. Compare these maps and you will see how the eruption changed the size and shape of Mount St. Helens.

What do Topographic Maps Show?

Topographic maps show the shape and elevation of the land by using special lines called **contour lines**. A contour line is an imaginary line that connects points at the same elevation, or height. Elevation is how high, or low, the land is above sea level. Sea level is "0" meters. On these two maps, each contour line equals a 100 meters (330 feet) change in elevation. To make the lines easier to read, every 500 meters (1,550 feet) is shown in a heavy black line.

Map A: Before the Eruption

The **top** of this drawing is a topographic map of Mount St. Helens before the 1980 eruption. It shows the volcano's shape and elevation as if you were looking at the volcano from the air. The **bottom** of this drawing is a profile view. It shows the volcano's shape and elevation from the side.

What to do

1. On the bottom illustration, connect the dots.
What shape have you drawn?
2. Find the highest point on the bottom illustration, put an "X" there. To find the approximate elevation, trace your finger across to the numbers on the left side.
That number is about _____ meters.

